

We affirm that baptism was, from the time of its first institution, for the remission of sins!—"John did baptise in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins"—Mark i. 4. "And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins"—Luke iii. 3. "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins,"—Acts ii. 38. "And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptised and wash away your sins, calling upon the name of the Lord"—Act xxii. 16. "Baptism doth even now save us"—1 Peter iii. 21. "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved"—Mark xvi. 16. If these testimonies do not prove that baptism is "for the remission of sins," then there is no proposition under Heaven that can be proved by any testimony whatever—for the testimony in the present case is positive, which is all that can be presented to prove any proposition. Reader, do not the prejudices of your education, or does not the pride of party cause you to reject this doctrine of the gospel of the grace of God?

If then in baptism we receive the remission, we experience in baptism a change of state—we pass out of the unpardoned into the pardoned state! "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ, were baptised into his death?"—Rom. vi. 3. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptised unto Jesus Christ, have put on Christ"—Gal. iii. 26, 27. These persons are here represented as having passed out of the unregenerated into the regenerated state. How was the change effected? By faith. How is it proved to have been effected by faith? Why, "For so many of you as have been baptised," &c. It is as if he had said "Ye believed and were baptised into him, therefore ye are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus;" ye were "born of water and the spirit," and are therefore children. If any will not believe from the force of these positive declarations of holy writ, neither would they be persuaded though one should rise from the dead!

FOURTH. *Pardon destroys the guilt of sin.* We are the more anxious to introduce this topic lest some hypochondriac should suppose that we believe that mere water washes away sins!! No, not water—"the blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin." The blood of Jesus "sprinkles us from an evil conscience." "We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." Without the blood of Jesus there could be no remission. But we believe that the blood of Jesus has efficacy to cleanse us, when in the water, from all sin! You believe that this blood cleansed you, not when in the water of baptism, but when in the atmospheric air! And pray, why not be cleansed by the atoning blood when in the water as well as when in the air? Why not rather be cleansed by this blood in baptism, as "baptism doth even now save us?" Why not have your "hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and your bodies washed with pure water?" Every place under heaven is suitable with some people for remission but the place which God has explicitly appointed!! Any place but the WATER to receive remission in baptism is heresy!!